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Providence Independent

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PROVIDENCE INDEPENDENT.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NOTHING.

VOL. 5.

TRAPPE, PA.,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1879.

WHOLE NUMBER, 234.

'CHARITY.'

Pity! Oh such tender words,
As uttered by an open heart,
Sweeter than all music chords,
Sink into molten parts.

Yes; such words are oftentimes spoken,
By the tongue of Charity,
Still some hearts have never been broken,
Nay, perhaps shall never be.

Beware; of such cold hearts as these,
Be sure my friend to take heed,
For in its depth there is no peace,
But some dark vow or deed.

Friends! see that you may never be,
The owner of a stony heart,
But always welcome Charity,
And your riches freely part.

Think of the wretched and the poor,
Of their troubles and their trials,
Think of the burdens which they bear,
Oft they bear them with a smile.

Look home at your extravagance,
What good to others it would do,
All for your own happiness,
Yes would make others happy too.

Then look at those poorer homes,
Homes they cannot be,
More like a den for hounds,
Than for Humanity.

If with money you cannot part,
There is many other ways,
By which to heal a broken heart,
And shorten those sad days.

Then last of all a word of cheer,
Sought for with eagerness,
Has oft changed the flowing tears,
Into thoughts of happiness.

Oh! friends why not join this band,
It costs you but a mite,
And help the poor, the sick and blind,
And of good do such a sight.

MOLLIE MAKING BREAD.

I see Miss Mollie when morning dew
Is on the growing heather,
When out she trips, with walking pail,
In spring or summer weather.

I see Miss Mollie at noontime's glow;
What charms the maid, possessed;
When seated 'neath the tree that shades
The rare gold of her tresses.

Her little hands play in and out,
While she the flux is spinning;
What lad in all the country but
Would think her worth the winning!

I see my love at evening time
When through the lattice peeping;
I hear the music of her song,
Which sets my heart to leaping.

The kettle sings upon the hearth,
The summer's day is ended;
I catch a glimpse of sunset arms
And snowy apron blended.

My Mollie, as she rolls and pats
Her cakes of peary whiteness;
What luscious food for him who tastes
Their sweet and fairy lightness!

'Tis lovely Mollie making bread—
Her cheeks like any rose;
To me the lasse so employed
Her sweetest charm discloses.

EDITH LEE.

I sat beside my study window, reading a magazine by the fast-fading sun light, and on a chair beside me, little Nellie, my nephew Richard's young and pretty wife, rocked and sewed and and sewed and rocked, with the golden sunbeams falling on her nut-brown tresses, and her sweet thoughts far away in the happy future, building air castles of pearls and diamonds.

'Spring and autumn, the rosebud and the withered leaf,' I thought, as I glanced at her, so young and hopeful and beloved, and then turned to my own gray reflection in the mirror. 'My youth and love I've buried in the past, my future path is all down life's rugged hill. We are a contrast; she the blooming bride, and I the gray-headed old bachelor, with nothing nearer to his heart than stocks and real estate.'

I sighed as this thought fluttered through my mind, and let the book in my hand fall listlessly upon the table for my interest in the tale was over, and I had no wish to read. At the sound of the cover dropping against the wood, Nellie lifted her eyes and looking at me with that sweet mixture of the child and woman, which I never saw in any eyes but hers, said, softly.

'Now that you have done reading, Uncle Edward, I want to ask you a question. May I?' 'May you not do? What is it that you may not do? Answered. 'As many questions as you choose. Nellie. Go on.'

'Then why did you never marry, Uncle Edward?' said Nellie. 'You were never meant for an old bachelor; you are not in the least surly or crusty; and I think you would have been so happy with children about your knee, and a good loving wife to walk through life beside you. If the right person never came along, dear uncle, I hope she will yet, before you are to old.'

'Why was it that I knew beforehand what she would ask? Why was it that, now I heard her words, the hot tears blinded me against my will, and something at my heart seemed to choke my utterance. I was to, old too give way thus, at a mere mercy; it was mere folly to tremble and the tears at the thought of one who had so long since forgotten me, but I could not help it, nor could I check the utterance of the words upon my lips: 'My child, she came and went, long years ago, and will never come again on earth.'

Nellie drew near to me, and laid her soft hand upon my arm.

'Forgive me, dear uncle,' she said, 'it was very wrong and thoughtless of me to ask a question, but I had no thought of paining you, and you will forgive me, I am sure.'

'I have nothing to forgive, Nellie,' I answered. 'Nay now that the first pang is over, I am glad that you have spoken for I have been thinking of the past to-night, and should like to tell you something which I never before breathed to mortal ear. Nellie, this is the face which I once hoped to see beside me in my old age; these eyes have looked into mine; this round cheek has rested on my shoulder; this hand has lain in mine, many and many a moonlight evening long ago, when I was young and handsome as your Richard is to-day.' And as I spoke I placed a miniature upon Nellie's rosy palm, and turned my head away toward the shadow.

Nellie looked at it until her eyes filled with tears, and she whispered softly, 'Is she dead, Uncle Edward?'

Dead to me, I answered, 'as she has been for thirty years; but I love her still, Nellie, and shall until I die.'

We stood silent several moments after this, and the old clock upon the mantle ticked loudly in the quiet room, as though it were counting the moments between the present hour and that of which I had spoken. At last I put my arm around Nellie and said, earnestly I know, for I felt it, 'Never quarrel with Richard. Nellie, never once; one quarrel will break the golden band forever; one angry word will turn a life of happiness into one of woe. We quarreled. I spoke harsh, jealous words—long since repented—and she resented them. On the eve of a long voyage I left her angrily, and have never seen her since. On my return I searched for her, hoping to win her forgiveness, but she was gone where I could never learn. She may be dead, or married to another; but no other woman could ever have filled the void which Edith Lee has left within my heart in the youth which has departed, or ever will in the old age which is to come.'

I put the miniature away again, and Nellie, with her woman's tact, sat silently beside me. The flood of memories which my words had evoked swept wildly through my heart; the days of love and joy; the years of restless search for that which I might never find on earth, all were before me, but they passed at length, and, coming back again to the world around me, I was once more the bachelor uncle, with an old man's hopes and pleasures, and nothings in the world to make sad or anxious. Oh, time! time! how wondrously you alter us poor mortals in a few short years. I patted Nellie on the head, and resumed my magazine—ringing for candles, that I might see better—but every now and then, I could see those blue eyes lifted from the tiny cap on which she was at work, and turned upon my face, like those of a wondering child for Nellie, in the full sweetness of her own glad lover dream, could not imagine how any one could part from love forever, and still exist. And I prayed silently, as I watched her, that her young heart might never know the grief mine had experienced.

We never spoke of this old story of mine again. Nellie was fearful of grieving me, and, had besides, many thoughts and hopes and fears of her own to busy her, and time went on with me as it had always done before, until just in Christmas time. The physician, nurse and all the old ladies and experienced matrons in the neighborhood declared, that the very finest child which ever had been, or ever would be born, was the one of which my nephew Richard and his sweet wife Nellie were joint proprietors. Yes, there it lay, wrapped up in flannel—very pink, very wrinkled, and very bald, and so exceedingly small that it quite alarmed me—and nothing could exceed Nellie's pride in its beauty, except Richard's pride in its precocious intellect. For myself, I have a constitutional horror of babies and curses, and after I had whistled to the unconscious infant, and remarked that it was a remarkably handsome child, I was very glad to avail myself of some very pressing business, and betake myself with my portmanteau to a region beyond the perfume of catnip.

I remained absent about a week, and on my return I was greeted at the door by Richard, who had, evidently, some very important news to communicate. 'Such a terrible time as we have had he said; 'Nurse Jorkins has been taken ill with the rheumatism and obliged to go home, and it was only by the most fortunate chance that we procured a person to supply her place—a widow lady—who, although competent is not accustomed to such a position,

and who really is the most obliging and attentive creature—but, do come and see Nellie.'

Thus rattling on, out of breath, and important in his new position, Richard hurried me up to Nellie's room, where after kissing my niece, I bounced the baby up and down like a potato to be well shaken before taken, and returned it safe and sound, to my great satisfaction and astonishment, after agreeing to its strong resemblance to Richard, whom I inwardly held to be much better looking.

The pretty figure of the nurse was bending over some flannels by the fire, and in reply to Richard's introduction she merely turned and bowed, and almost instantly resumed her occupation.

My eyes rested on her neat finger and lingered there, and, strange to tell, I found myself thinking of her, after we had left the room and were at supper together. I am ashamed at my age to tell of such folly, but it is true that the next day I caught myself making an elaborate toilette, brushing my whiskers carefully before the glass ere I entered Nellie's room who was I dressing for? Not for Richard, or for Nellie; they were used to seeing me in my morning gown and slippers. 'It must be for the baby,' I said; 'yes, I'm afraid of alarming the precious infant'—and then I remembered the pretty figure and blushed crimson to the roots of my gray hair, as well I might.

Mrs. Blair bore acquaintance well. She was no longer young, it is true, but she was still pretty, and certainly had a mind. At first she would not, talk to me, but ere long we grew quite sociable, and as the baby grew older we were often left *tele-a-tole* over its cradle, while Nellie was out in the little carriage with Richard. These quiet hours grew very agreeable to me and in a little while strange fancies stole into my brain, and I began to imagine that if Edith and I had been married we might have sat together over the cradle of some favorite grandchild, as Mrs. Blair and I sat by Nellie's baby. I reasoned with myself in the silence of my study; I called myself an old fool, but without avail; I began to realize that I was in love with Mrs. Blair! I who had vowed eternal constance to Edith Lee; I who had made Richard my heir, and never intended to marry; I who was fifty years old, and considered myself a man of sense; I was absolutely ashamed of myself, and almost hoped that I should awake, and discover that I had been dreaming. In love or not in love, I determined not to make an idiot of myself by proposing and being refused as I was sure I should be, and yet the idea of a stout old bachelor 'letting concealment, like a worm in the bud, prey on his damask cheek,' was utterly absurd. Not so absurd however, as the fact that he should start and turn pale when it was announced one morning that nurse was going away that afternoon. Not so nonsensical as that he should wonder how he could live without those *tele a tole* over a baby's cradle.

Yes, Mrs. Blair was going. Her trunks were in the hall, her bandbox on the trunks, and she, already attired in her traveling dress, was singing to her infant charge for the last time. I wondered whether she was happy, but I dared not trust myself to go and see.

The time wore on, and the hour of departure came. The carriage was at the door, yet still I sat in my old study, with my face hidden in my hands, repeating, over and over again, 'at your age, Edward, at your age, nonsense.'

A rap at the door aroused me. I called, 'Come in;' and it softly opened, admitting Mrs. Blair, in her traveling bonnet and veil. She did not lift her veil, but held out her hand and said: 'Good-bye, Mr. Weldon.'

I took it, and those little gray-gloved fingers sent a thrill through my frame, but I had determined not to make a fool of myself, and I only said 'Good-bye, Mrs. Blair, I wish you a very pleasant journey.'

Yet, somehow, when I had said it, it was hard to let her hand loose, and harder still to see her turn slowly and sadly toward the door.

'Mrs. Blair,' I said, will you stop a moment?'

I handed her a chair as I spoke, and she seated herself, with her face covered by her veil, I sat beside her, and was nervously myself to speak, and the words were just upon my lips, when the study door was dashed open and Nellie ran in with a little crimson-covered book held at arm's length toward us.

'Oh, uncle! I am so glad, she said. 'Oh, Mrs. Blair! why did you not tell me before? I might have known it. You are like the picture still, though you are older. Uncle Edward, have

you never guessed?'

'Guessed what?' he gasped.

Oh, take off your bonnet, pull away that ugly veil, do not be ashamed of what you should be proud of,' cried Nellie. 'See uncle, here on the title-page of this book is the name you uttered in this library six months ago, and she has often told me it was given to her by the only man she ever loved, although she married another who was cruel to her. Oh, if you had not left it behind you. Uncle! uncle! that is Edith Lee who stands beside you.'

The truth rushed through my mind at once. I turned toward the trembling figure at my side and clasped it to my heart, and with one long kiss blotted out the cruel past forever.

THE WIFE WINS.

When they reached the depot, Mr. Mann and his wife gazed in unspeakable disappointment at the receding train, which was just away from the bridge-switch at the rate of a thousand miles a minute. The first impulse was to run after it, but as the train was out of sight and whistling for Sagetown before they could act upon the impulse, they remained in the carriage, and disconsolately turned their horses' heads homeward.

'It all comes of having to wait for a woman to get ready,' Mr. Mann broke the silence very grimly.

'I was ready before you were,' replied his wife.

'Great heavens!' cried Mr. Mann, with keen impatience, jerking the horses' jaws out of place: 'just listen to that. I sat in the buggy ten minutes yelling at you to come along, until the whole neighborhood heard me.'

'Yes,' acquiesced Mrs. Mann, with the provoking placidity which none can assume but a woman, 'and every time I started down stairs, you sent me back for something you had forgotten.'

Mr. Mann groaned. 'This is too much to bear,' he said, 'when everybody knows that if I were going to Europe I would run into the house, put on a clean shirt, grab my grip-sack and fly while you would wait at least six months for preliminary preparations, and then dawdle around the whole day of starting until every train had left town.'

Well, the upshot of the matter was, that the Manns put off their visit to Aurora until the next week, and it was agreed that each one should get himself or herself ready and go down to the train and go; and the one who failed to get ready should be left. The day of the match came around in due time. The train was going at 10.30, and Mann, after attending to his business, went home at 9.45.

'Now, then,' he shouted, 'only three-quarters of an hour's time. Fly around; a fair field and no favors, you know.'

And away they flew. Mr. Mann bulged into this room and flew through that one; and dived into one closet after another with inconceivable rapidity, chuckling under his breath all the time to think how cheap Mrs. Mann would feel when he started off alone. He stopped on his way up stairs to pull off his heavy boots to save time. For the same reason he pulled off his coat, and he ran through the dining room and hung it on the silver closet. Then he jerked off his vest as he rushed through the hall, and tossed it on a hook in the hat-rack, and by the time he reached his own room he was ready to plunge into his clean clothes. He pulled out the bureau-drawer and began to paw at things like a Scotch terrier after a rat.

'Eleanor,' he shrieked, 'where are my shirts?'

'In the bureau drawer,' calmly replied Mrs. Mann, who was standing before a glass, quietly and deliberately coaxing a refractory crimp into place.

'Well, by thunder; they ain't,' shouted Mr. Mann, a little annoyed. 'I've emptied everything out of the drawer, and there isn't a thing in it I ever saw before.'

Mrs. Mann stepped back a few paces, held her head to one side, and after satisfying herself that the crimp would do, and would stay where she put it, replied:

'These things scattered about the floor all belong to me. Probably you haven't been looking in your own drawer.'

'I don't see,' testily observed Mr. Mann, 'why you couldn't have put my things out for me, when you had nothing to do all morning.'

'Because,' said Mrs. Mann, settling herself into an additional article of raiment with awful deliberation, 'nobody put mine out for me. A fair field and no favors, my dear.'

Mr. Mann plunged into his shirt like a bull at a red flag.

'Lou!' he shouted in malicious triumph. 'No buttons on the neck.'

'Because,' said Mrs. Mann, sweetly,

after a deliberate stare at the fidgeting, impatient man, during which she but toned her dress, and put eleven pins where they would do the most good, 'because you've got the shirt on wrong side out.'

When Mr. Mann slid out of his shirt he began to sweat. He dropped the shirt three times before he got it on, and while it was over his head he heard the clock strike ten. When his head went through he saw Mrs. Mann coaxing the ends and bows of her neck-tie.

'Where's my shirt studs?' he cried.

'In the shirt you just pulled off,' she replied.

Mrs. Mann put on her gloves while Mr. Mann hunted up and down the room for his cuff buttons.

'Eleanor,' he snarled at last, 'I believe you must know where those cuff-buttons are.'

'I haven't seen them,' said the lady, settling her hat; 'didn't you lay them down on the window-sill in the sitting-room last night?'

Mr. Mann remembered, and went down stairs with a run. He stepped on one of his boots, and was immediately landed in the hall at the foot of the stairs with neatness and despatch, attending in the transmission with more bumps than he could count with Webb's adder, and landing with a bang like the Hell Gate explosion.

'Are you nearly ready, Algernon?' asked the wife of his family, sweetly, leaning over the banisters.

The unhappy man groaned. 'Can't you throw me down the other boot?' he asked.

Mrs. Mann pityingly kicked it down to him.

'My valise?' he inquired, as he tugged at his boot.

'Up in your dressing-room,' she answered.

'Packed?'

'I don't know; unless you packed it yourself—probably not,' she replied, with her hand upon the door knob; 'I had hardly time to pack my own.'

She was passing out of the gate, when the door opened, and he shouted:

'Where in the name of goodness did you put my vest? It has all my money in it.'

'You threw it on the hat-rack,' she called; 'good-bye, dear.'

Before she reached the corner of the street she was again hailed:

'Eleanor! Eleanor! Eleanor Mann! Did you wear off my coat?'

She paused and turned after signaling a street-car, and cried:

'You threw it on the silver-closet, in the dining-room.'

And the street-car engulfed her graceful form and she was seen no more. But the neighbors say they heard Mr. Mann charging up and down the house, rushing out of the front door every now and then shrieking up the deserted street after the unconscious Mrs. Mann, to know where his hat was, and if he had put the valise keys, and if he had any clean socks and undershirts, and that there wasn't a linen collar in the house.

And when he went away at last, he left the kitchen door, the side door, and the front door, all the down stairs windows and the front gate wide open, and the loungers around the depot were some what amused, just as the train was pulling out of sight down in the yards, to see a flushed, perspiring man, with his hat on sideways, his vest buttoned two buttons too high, his cuffs unbuttoned and neck-tie flying, and his grip-sack flapping open and shut like a demented shutter on a March night, and a door key in his hand, dash wildly across the platform, glaring in dejected, impotent, wrathful mortification at the departing train, and shaking his fist at a pretty woman who was throwing kisses at him from the rear platform of the last car.

PUTTING ON AIRS.

He was a shrewd, white-headed old gentleman tourist who sat sipping a lemonade in the Baldwin barroom, the other day, and who remarked, as a self-important looking individual came in and haughtily ordered a whisky straight:

'Now, I s'pose that gentleman is one of your bonanza chaps, and owns about two thirds of the real estate 'round here?'

'No,' we replied, 'he's a much greater personage. He is one of the successful candidates of the late election.'

'I might have known it!' exclaimed the old gentleman, emphatically. 'He acts just as I did when I was elected to Congress.'

'How was that?'

'Well, you see I was elected M. C. from the Fourth District just after the war. We had a pretty lively campaign of it, and as I never had been in politics before I somehow got the idea that the whole country had quit work and was watching my contest with quivering anxiety. Every time the other side ac-

cused me of being a chicken thief, or a bigamist, or something, and I'd get back at them with a card in the Redville Warwhoop, headed 'Another lie nailed!' I'd send a marked copy to every leading paper in the country.'

'Did, eh?'

'Yes, and I was disgusted to find they never paid the slightest attention to me, either. What surprised me most was that, although I kept the President and Cabinet advised of everything that occurred, I never got the slightest sympathy from any of them. I was an administration man too, and thought it blamed singular.'

'Didn't notice you at all?'

'Not at all sir; and when I was elected and the boys lighted a bonfire in the main street, and serenaded me, and I spoke six hours in the open air as to my future course on the tariff and finances, the New York papers merely said that 'Mr. Gunn had been elected by a small majority,' my name being Gouley, as you know.'

'That was hard.'

'Well, I put that all down to envy and malice, and started for Washington, expecting at least that the Speaker of the House and a committee appointed by the Senate would be down at the depot to welcome me to the capital.'

'They did so?'

The only persons that met me were a committee of hackmen, who tore my overcoat half off, rammed me into a hack, and robbed me, with the aid and assistance of the hotel clerk, who then gave me a room on the top floor, and asked the first week's board in advance; said it was the rules of the house with Arkansas members.'

'The impudent rascal.'

'That's what I thought. Well, the next morning I got away from the bed-

bags as well as I could, and went up to the White House to see if the President would like to stroll down to the house to introduce me and see me sworn in. I sent up my card, and in an hour or two some Secretary or other sent back word that the President was at breakfast and couldn't be bothered.'

'That was pretty short, wasn't it?'

'Well, I was just dumfounded. How ever I went down to the capitol, and told the Sergeant-at-arms to go in and announce to the members that I had arrived. He grinned and said, 'That's devilish good, that is,' and rushed off. I expected that, of course, the members would come crowding up to congratulate me, and say something like Magnificent speech of yours, that last one, Gouley. Beat 'em by 48 votes, too, old fellow.' And then maybe they'd give me three cheers and all that sort of thing, and no did they?'

'No sir; I hope I may never stir if they didn't give me a back seat in the cloak-room until my name was called, and a doorkeeper fired me out into the corridor twice under the impression that I was a lobbyist. Well, after I had been put on the joint committee on spittoons and window washing, and spent a couple of months trying to wedge in my great four hour speech on the match tax, something occurred that let down my check rein, and took all the frills out of me for good.'

'What was that?'

'Well, I was taking a drive out to the Soldier's Home one afternoon with three other members, when a light buggy went by like a streak of greased lightning, the trotter driven by a solemn looking man in a rusty plug hat, who was smoking a cigar, and steadying a small terrier on the seat with his elbow.

'That's Butcher Boy,' said one of my companions with great interest; 'trots in 20. He's a rattling good stepper, bet your life.'

'Did you notice that dog,' said another. 'Best bred pup in town—tail no bigger than a rat's—infernal fine dog that.'

'As I had nothing else to say I casually inquired who the driver was.'

'Why, that's the president,' said one of them with a yawn. 'By Jove, how I'd like to have one of those pups!'

That settled it. I've been as meek and sad as a carhorse pulling a picnic ever since.

Some of the mills are running day and night.

The estimated number of Indians now living is 300,000.

Delaware county contains 170 square miles of territory.

General Grant will arrive in Philadelphia on December 16th.

The new post office in Philadelphia will be ready for roofing next spring.

Russia wants to prop herself up with Poles, but they are not to be relied on.

England and Russia must fight sometime, and the sooner they get at it the better.

Sold Every Where